



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913
PH (517) 373.0793 | FAX (517) 373.5607
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/george/

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 16, 2003

Contact: Sherry Sofia
(517) 373-0793

Cracking Down on Meth Labs

George legislation passes Judiciary Committee

LANSING – After testimony by senators, judges, sheriffs, prosecuting attorneys and many more the Senate Judiciary Committee reported out the “Meth Lab” package of bills, including Senate Bill 777, introduced by Sen. Tom George, R-Texas Twp. SB 777 makes it illegal to possess anhydrous ammonia, a critical component in creating methamphetamines, in an unapproved container.

“Illegal meth labs need anhydrous ammonia, a fertilizer which is often stolen from farmers,” George said. “The end result of meth production is a drug that destroys people’s lives.”

In 1999, more than a million Americans used “meth”—more than used crack and almost three times as many as used heroin. Statewide, figures from the Michigan State Police show 206 methamphetamine labs were seized in 2002, up 91 labs in 2001. The estimated cost of clean up for one methamphetamine lab is \$1500, which is currently covered by a federal grant through the Michigan State Police.

“There is a one in five effect with this drug,” said Sen. Patty Birkholz, R-Saugatuck. “For every one pound of the drug manufactured five pounds of contaminants are created. Not only do these drugs destroy the environment, but good people’s lives have been destroyed merely by coming into contact with these labs.”

The legislation will now go before the Senate for consideration.